

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

12/07/pmp

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

AVECIA LIMITED
Attn. Teasdale, Nicola J.
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 42, Hexagon House
Blackley, Manchester M9 8ZS
UNITED KINGDOM

AVECIA LIMITED
P.O. GROUP
- 9 MAY 2005

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

10/05/2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

SMC 60629/WO

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/004868

International filing date

(day/month/year)

18/11/2004

Applicant

AVECIA LIMITED

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until **30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Maria Cajide

PCT AVAILABLE COPY

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference SMC 60629/WO | FOR FURTHER ACTION <small>see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</small> | |
| International application No. PCT/GB2004/004868 | International filing date (day/month/year) 18/11/2004 | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 20/11/2003 |
| Applicant AVECIA LIMITED | | |

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

TRISAZO-DYESTUFFS

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/004868

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C09B31/28 C09D11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C09B C09D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | US 2001/027734 A1 (GEISENBERGER JOSEF ET AL) 11 October 2001 (2001-10-11) cited in the application page 3 - page 4 page 8 | 1-12 |
| P, A | ----- WO 03/095562 A (AVECIA LIMITED; MISTRY, PRAHALAD, MANIBHAI; BRADBURY, ROY) 20 November 2003 (2003-11-20) the whole document & WO 03/095563 A (AVECIA LIMITED; MISTRY, PRAHALAD, MANIBHAI; BRADBURY, ROY) 20 November 2003 (2003-11-20) ----- -/- | 1-12 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

10/05/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Ketterer, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/004868

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A | <p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199840 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A60, AN 1998-463026 XP002326162 -& JP 10 195320 A (NIPPON KAGAKU KOGYOSHO KK) 28 July 1998 (1998-07-28) cited in the application page 8</p> | 1-12 |
| A | <p>GB 05955 A A.D. 1911 (PHILIP ARTHUR NEWTON) 11 January 1912 (1912-01-11) examples A,B page 1, line 8 - line 9</p> | 1,5,6 |
| A | <p>DE 243 122 C (FARBENFABRIKEN VORM. FRIEDR. BAYER & CO. IN ELBERFELD) 2 February 1912 (1912-02-02) examples 1,2 page 1, column 1, line 25 - line 26</p> | 1,5,6 |
| A | <p>CH 217 944 A (I. G. FARBENINDUSTRIE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 15 November 1941 (1941-11-15) the whole document & CH 217 943 A (I. G. FARBENINDUSTRIE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 15 November 1941 (1941-11-15)</p> | 1,4-6 |
| A | <p>FR 815 403 A (I. G. FARBENINDUSTRIE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 12 July 1937 (1937-07-12) examples 1-4</p> | 1,5,6 |
| A | <p>GB 259 970 A (I. G. FARBENINDUSTRIE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 13 January 1928 (1928-01-13) examples 1-3 page 1, column 1, line 32 - line 37</p> | 1,5,6 |
| A | <p>FR 622 974 A (I. G. FARBENINDUSTRIE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 14 June 1927 (1927-06-14) examples</p> | 1,5,6 |
| A | <p>US 1 615 550 A (OESCH JOSEPH B) 25 January 1927 (1927-01-25) the whole document</p> | 1,4-6 |
| A | <p>DE 469 288 C (I. G. FARBENINDUSTRIE AKT.-GES) 8 December 1928 (1928-12-08) examples 1,3 page 1, column 1, line 1 - line 4</p> | 1,5,6 |
| | -/-- | |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/004868

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | <p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 200167 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A89, AN 2001-592335 XP002326169 -& JP 2001 108828 A (SUMITOMO CHEM CO LTD) 20 April 2001 (2001-04-20) abstract -----</p> | 1,4-6 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/004868

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| US 2001027734 A1 | 11-10-2001 | DE 10015004 A1 | 27-09-2001 |
| | | AT 268359 T | 15-06-2004 |
| | | BR 0109552 A | 10-06-2003 |
| | | CA 2406892 A1 | 24-09-2002 |
| | | DE 50102473 D1 | 08-07-2004 |
| | | WO 0172906 A2 | 04-10-2001 |
| | | EP 1268674 A2 | 02-01-2003 |
| | | JP 2003528964 T | 30-09-2003 |
| | | TR 200401327 T4 | 21-07-2004 |
| WO 03095562 A | 20-11-2003 | AU 2003227918 A1 | 11-11-2003 |
| | | AU 2003230002 A1 | 11-11-2003 |
| | | EP 1506260 A1 | 16-02-2005 |
| | | EP 1506261 A1 | 16-02-2005 |
| | | WO 03095562 A1 | 20-11-2003 |
| | | WO 03095563 A1 | 20-11-2003 |
| WO 03095563 A | 20-11-2003 | AU 2003227918 A1 | 11-11-2003 |
| | | AU 2003230002 A1 | 11-11-2003 |
| | | EP 1506260 A1 | 16-02-2005 |
| | | EP 1506261 A1 | 16-02-2005 |
| | | WO 03095562 A1 | 20-11-2003 |
| | | WO 03095563 A1 | 20-11-2003 |
| JP 10195320 A | 28-07-1998 | NONE | |
| GB 191105955 A | 11-01-1912 | NONE | |
| DE 243122 C | | NONE | |
| CH 217944 A | 15-11-1941 | CH 217943 A | 15-11-1941 |
| CH 217943 A | 15-11-1941 | CH 217944 A | 15-11-1941 |
| FR 815403 A | 12-07-1937 | NONE | |
| GB 259970 A | 13-01-1928 | NONE | |
| FR 622974 A | 14-06-1927 | NONE | |
| US 1615550 A | 25-01-1927 | NONE | |
| DE 469288 C | 08-12-1928 | NONE | |
| JP 2001108828 A | 20-04-2001 | NONE | |

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004868

International filing date (day/month/year)
18.11.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
20.11.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
C09B31/28, C09D11/00

Applicant
AVECIA LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Ketterer, M

Telephone No. +31 70 340-3645



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004868

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004868

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 1-12 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | 1-12 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-12 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.9)

see form 210

V. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US -A- 2001/0027734

D2: WO -A- 03/095562

D3: Derwent database WPI, AN=1998-463026[40]

& D3a: JP-A- 10 - 195 320 (japanese original document)

D4: GB -A- 1911/05955

D5: DE -C- 0 243 122

V.1. The subject matter of claims 1-12 is new; no novelty destroying documents could be retrieved.

V.2. The subject matter of claims 1-12 seems to be inventive in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

The problem underlying the current application can be seen in 'providing valuable colorants for ink jet printing inks'.

V.2.1. D1 discloses for the same purpose (" [Black] tris-azo metal complex dyes with better fastness to light and water, better solubility and better storage stability in inks than existing black dyes and good fastness to rubbing.... they also have the properties required for ink-jet printing inks...") metalized (preferably copper) trisazodyes, whereby some of them bear a terminal pyrazolone coupling component. Generally, the position of the 'righthanded' azogroup is located at the 2-position of the naphthol moiety. On page 8 of D1 the metal (copper) - free trisazo dye is disclosed as the intermediate product before the subsequent metalisation step. Considering D1 as a whole, the 2-position of the respective azo group is always in the 2-position of the naphthol ring. This technical feature presents therefore a critical technical feature of the teaching of D1. A skilled person would not modify it by seeking alternative dyes to solve the above mentioned problem; furthermore, he would be lead from D1 to metalize the free trisazo chromophor to obtain good working ink jet ink dyes; claims 1-12 are inventive over D1.

D3 discloses anionic black polyazo dyes (metalized or metal-free) useful for dyeing paper, pulp, leather and cellulose fibres showing excellent dyeing affinity and light resistance. On page 8 of D3a a metal-free trisazo pyrazolone dye is shown. D3 (D3a) seems to lack a clear indication for a skilled person to modify this dye in the direction of the claimed dyes by solving the above mentioned technical problem. Also here, the position of the

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/004868

'righthanded' azo group is fixed in the 2-position. Also D3 is not pertinent against inventive step.

D4/D5 deal with trisazodyes used to color resp. print cotton fabrics. Ink jet printing is not mentioned in D4/D5 at all. The dyes disclosed therein differ from the claimed dyes also only in the position of the right azo group. As the technical field discussed in these documents is clearly different from the current application, a skilled person would not consider them at all to seek a solution for the problem underlying the current application. The claims 1-12 seem to be inventive over D1, D3-D5.

VI. Certain documents cited:

VI.1. Document D2 is published on the claimed priority date. It could be of relevance by entering the regional examination phase before the European Patent Office.